

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OUAGAD 00399 151341Z

41

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-07 INRE-00

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O 151146Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9176

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 0399

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, ML, UV

SUBJ: MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE

REF: STATE 34984

1. WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING HERE OF SECRET INTERCHANGES MENTIONED BY YAGUIBOU. WE HAVE NOT SEEN DAOUDA DIALLO FOR A LONG TIME. KALANZAGA IS NORMALLY IN OUAGA AND WE SEE HIM FROM TIME TO TIME BUT WE WERE NOT AWARE THAT HE HAD BEEN ASSIGNED A PARTICULAR MISSION WITHIN MFA. IT MAY BE WORTH MENTIONING, HOWEVER, THAT KABORE, VOLTAN AMBASSADOR TO MALI, HAS COME TO OUAGA FROM BAMAKO ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS RECENTLY. ON ONE SUCH OCCASION, KABORE POINTED OUT TO EMBOFF THAT DIALOGUE BETWEEN MALI AND UPPER VOLTA WAS NOT ENTIRELY BROKEN SINCE HE WAS STILL ACCREDITED TO, AND RESIDENT IN, MALI.

2. RE PARA 2 REFTTEL, OUR RECENT CONVERSATION WITH VARIOUS GOUV OFFICIALS DO NOT INDICATE ANY WEAKENING OF UPPER VOLTA'S DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN ITS CLAIMS TO THE BORDERS AS SHOWN ON FRENCH MAPS AT TIME OF INDEPENDENCE. IT MAY BE WORTH MENTIONING, HOWEVER, THAT IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 OUAGAD 00399 151341Z

LT. LEONARD KALMOGO, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PLANNING,

WHO IS CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF RISING STARS AMONG YOUNG TURKS OF VOLTAN ARMY, EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT MALIAN AUTHORITIES HAD PLACED THEMSELVES IN A CORNER FROM WHICH THEY WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO EXTRICATE THEMSELVES WITHOUT CREATING AN EXPLOSION. HE SAID THAT SOMEHOW A WAY SHOULD BE FOUND TO SAVE MALI'S FACE, AND MUSED THAT PERHAPS UPPER VOLTA SHOULD, IN A FORMAL TREATY ESTABLISHING ONCE AND FOR ALL UPPER VOLTA'S BORDER WITH MALI, ACCEPT A SERVITUDE BY WHICH MALIAN NOMADS WOULD BE FORMALLY GRANTED ACCESS TO LAKES, RIVERS AND WATER HOLES IN THE CONTESTED AREA. HE ADDED THAT, IN PRACTICE, THIS SERVITUDE WOULD NOT CHANGE ANYTHING SINCE MALIAN NOMADS HAD ALWAYS ENJOYED FREE ACCESS TO THE WATER IN THE CONTESTED AREA BUT, TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, IT WOULD LOOK AS THOUGH MALI WAS GETTING SOMETHING OUT OF THE DEAL. KALMOGO WAS OBVIOUSLY THINKING OUT LOUD AND THERE MAY BE NOTHING TO HIS REMARKS BUT WE REPORT IT FOR WHAT IT MAY BE WORTH.

3. WE SHALL, OF COURSE, KEEP OUR EYES AND EARS OPEN AND WILL REPORT ANY NEW DEVELOPMENT WHICH MIGHT SHED SOME LIGHT ON YAGUIBOU'S ASSERTIONS.
GRAHAM

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NNN

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